

NEUTRALITY.

The chief question in which we as a sovereign nation should feel most interested, and indeed, anxious about, in relation to the recent and threatened armed invasion from Canada, is: What should be the conduct thereof of the British Government itself? This is, and ought to be insisted upon by us, as the controlling view; inasmuch as our Government cannot lawfully authorize our own people to enter into our neighbor's territory to suppress even such unlawful combinations for hostile purposes, unless, in the language of Mr. Secretary Webster, there exists "a necessity of self-defense, instant, overwhelming, leaving no choice of means, and no moment for deliberation." Such a necessity of self-defense may yet arise if these warlike incursions are permitted to be set at foot, either from lack of means for adequate restraint upon evil-disposed persons, or through the negligence of the Canadian local authorities.

Early in the history of this Republic, legislation was directed toward providing means for effectively preventing our citizens and alien residents among us from engaging in hostilities against other nations with which we are at peace. Indeed, the United States may proudly and truthfully arrogate to itself, that it was the first among civilized States to enforce the observance of the just rule of neutrality and peace, by special and adequate legal enactments. That rule is founded in the propriety and danger of allowing individuals to make war on their own authority, or by mingling themselves in the belligerent operations of other nations, to run the hazard of contracting the policy, or embroiling the relations, of their own Government." (Webster.) So that, when the South American Colonies took up arms against their European sovereigns, even then we repressed our natural feeling for affiliating with those colonies, and remained faithful to our settled policy, and in accord with the law of nations. Indeed, our Government availed itself of the occasion of those revolutions to make, as it were, a confirmation of that policy, by causing Congress to pass acts specially applicable, not only to the case of colonial insurrection, but also to that of civil war. And let us, with some emphasis, say that, at this time, it will well become the British Government to remember that the heavy penalties of those statutes were faithfully imposed upon the persons who, within our jurisdiction, acted, during the late Canadian Rebellion, in concert with her revolted subjects; and that our Congress, on the 10th of March, 1838, enacted a law for the very purpose of more effectively restraining military enterprises passing from the United States into the British Provinces, by authorizing the most sure and decisive preventive means.

Nor are we without solemn and most authoritative declaration on the part of Great Britain as to what is the rule of international law, and what she thinks to be her duty, in such circumstances. The late Lord Ashburton, at the time of the making of the treaty of Washington, says, in reference to just such forcible incursions and threatening preparations as those which are the occasion of this article: "Respect for the inviolable character of the territory of independent nations is the most essential foundation of civilization. It is useless to strengthen a principle, so generally acknowledged, by any appeal to authorities on international law; and her Majesty's Government set the highest possible value on this principle, and are sensible of their duty to support it by their conduct and example for the maintenance of peace and order in the world. If a sense of moral responsibility were not a sufficient security for their observance of this duty toward all nations, it will be readily believed that the most common dictates of interest and policy would lead to it in the case of a long continuous boundary of some thousand miles, with a country of such great and growing power as the United States of America, inhabited by a kindred race, gifted with all its activity, and all its susceptibility on points of national honor."

This is an official declaration, on behalf of the British Government, by its authorized ambassador, of its rule of conduct in cases coming within the principle enunciated. We look to the British Government, on this occasion, for the practical enforcement of this rule of international law upon the offenders, which it now holds in custody, and amenable to its judicial and political jurisdiction. Those offenders are already liable to punishment for the perpetration of crimes known to British law, by British courts, and according to British procedure. We, therefore, ask the crown officers not to forget the language and conduct of our own Government upon a somewhat similar, but no means as flagrant, a breach of neutrality. We allude, of course, to the time of the Canadian rebellion of 1838. Some of our citizens, encouraged and led on by refugees from the British provinces, united with them and organized military expeditions against the British Government in Canada. The President of the United States promptly declared it his fixed resolution that all such disturbers of the national peace should be brought to exemplary punishment, and that the fact that the expeditions were instigated and led on by British revolted subjects was not to be deemed any excuse or palliation, and that this was his duty and in full consonance with the established principles and practice of our Government.

But, proud as we are of our policy, conduct and history on this subject, and much as we would hold up and press at this time our example upon the Crown officers, yet we intend principally to insist upon the well-understood principles of international and English laws, and the practice of her Government, to vindicate her outraged neutrality, to punish these transgressors, and to maintain her avowed friendly relations with us. England has the whole case fully within her own judicial and political power.

It may, perhaps, be said that the individuals who composed the military body which has violated our territory, wounded our citizens, robbed them of their property, and carried the

plunder, exultingly and in an open manner, back into British territory, after their sudden and temporary irruption, are not subjects of Great Britain. We apprehend that no such excuse or palliation will be seriously suggested by any one conversant with international law, or with the law of England. We think it well, however, to look at the question for a moment in this light. Therefore let us remark, that that fact (if fact it is) can make no difference as to these offenders in the enforcement of their punishment by British law in British courts. Whether these hostile invaders were natural subjects of the English crown, aliens or denizens, they all, in equal degree, so far as their liability to answer to the law for this their act is concerned, owed an allegiance to the sovereign and an amenability to the laws of England. Allegiance is either express or implied. It is distinguished by law into two kinds: the one natural, the other local; the former being also perpetual, the latter temporary. Natural allegiance, we all know, is that which results from the fact of a person being born within the dominions of the sovereign, and is due by nature. Local allegiance is such as is due from an alien, or stranger-born, for so long time as he continues within the king's dominion and protection, and it ceases the instant such stranger transfers himself from that kingdom to another. Natural allegiance is therefore perpetual—local, temporary only. It is founded in the nature of government. These allegiances are applicable to the political capacity of the sovereign as well as to his natural person. This is the doctrine of the great English commentator Blackstone, and the American doctrine on the subject, as enunciated by Kent, is thus stated: "Strangers are equally bound with natives to obedience to the laws of the country during the time they sojourn in it, and they are equally amenable for infraction of the law."

So that these invaders—whatever may be their offense against their own country—stand before the British law in precisely the same light as if they were natural subjects of the crown. And thus we see the incident of their being aliens or denizens does not embarrass the legal aspect of the case.

Now, if a natural subject had done the wrongs which are admitted to have been done by these men, they would, one and all, come within the condemnation of the law of England. What is that law? To make war and peace are prerogatives of the crown, and "are rooted in and spring from the sovereign's political person." As much as the prerogative to give currency to coin, to regulate weights and measures, and the like. Instances of more than one illustrious Englishman whose ill-regulated ambition and unalloyed enterprise led him to act in an offensive and hostile manner "against His Majesty's allies," and who paid the penalty of his insubordination with his life, will at once suggest themselves to the reader in connection with this allusion. Why, is it not well-known that England has had for many years, and now continues unrepealed on her statute-book, an act of Parliament which was passed, like ours, expressly to prevent transactions originating within her jurisdiction so nearly approaching to public war, as this "raid" on St. Albans? But the principle of these laws does not depend upon act of Congress or Parliament. It inheres in all government. It is essential to its peace and existence. Nor is the action of the principle limited to deeds of violence, but all transactions which have an intent and tendency to disturb the peaceable and friendly relations of the country with other nations are clearly within the reason of the rule. Jean Peltier, a French emigrant in England, published there several articles, which were deemed libelous and offensive to Napoleon, at the time he was the First Consul of France. He was indicted for the crime of libel, and was tried thereupon in the Court of King's Bench, at London, in 1803. He was defended, it will be remembered, by the celebrated Sir James Mackintosh, in a speech of such rare power and beauty that it has ever since held its place among the chief forensic glories of the English bar. Peltier was convicted. The nature of his offense was, that his libelous article tended to disturb the peace of the country with France. The last prosecution before that of Peltier, in England, at the instance of the French Government, was for a libel "on that magnanimous princess" who shortly afterward was butchered in sight of her own palace. "I must admit," says Mackintosh, in his address to the jury, "the right to bring before you those who libel any government recognized by His Majesty, and at peace with the British Empire."

If the Crown has a right to bring before a jury those who libel a government recognized and at peace with the British Empire, how much more certain is that right, how much more imperative is that duty, when alien-residents have violated its hospitality and protection, made incursions into friendly continental territory, assaulted and wounded its unarmed, surprised and defenseless people, plundered a town, and brought the booty back with them and placed it and themselves under the protection of British neutrality! England has here a duty to perform. It is imposed upon her by a careful regard for her own honor and interest. Peltier, an alien-resident, was promptly convicted of libel. These men are guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors in the view of English law, and are now personally within the jurisdiction of its courts. England bears no such political relations to them as we unfortunately bear.

Again, perhaps it is possible that the British authorities may be embarrassed by the absurd assertion that these malefactors are political refugees, and therefore entitled to the "Right of Refuge." This would clearly be their right if they had conformed to and lived in observance of the laws of the British Empire, and had not so directly and insultingly abused its hospitality. Let it also not escape reflection that this abuse of hospitality and refuge, and these conspicuous violations of English law and policy, was not a thought that presented itself after their coming within the British Provinces; but they—especially their leader, "Lieutenant" Young—boast that their object in going into Canada was

to organize and fit out this very armed invasion, and to make war upon the Government of the United States, using Canada as a base of supply and a place of retreat. Thus it is admitted that their intent in coming into the territory of our neutral and friendly neighbor was in direct violation of its law; which intent, and the acts that followed, having a positive tendency to involve the British Empire in war, and being an abuse of its hospitality solely designed for political and unfortunate refugees, these malefactors are trespassers *ab initio*, and have no right to British protection, but are amenable to be disposed of according to the laws or to the policy of that Government.

The British Government is, therefore, entirely at liberty to adopt one of two courses. First: It is its privilege to vindicate its own law by indicting these persons for the high crime and misdemeanor of making war upon "Her Majesty's Allies" without license from the crown, and also for the crime of robbery—of both of which they are guilty. We add the crime of robbery, for the reason that these criminals brought within British territory immediately after possessing themselves by violence of it, the property they took at St. Albans; and thus, by a continuance of the criminal act, which relates to its inception, committed within the jurisdiction of the British Empire a crime known to and punished by its laws. This course is perfectly regular, no matter whether "Lieutenant" Young bore a military commission from the "so-called Confederate States" or not. Secondly: But if "Lieutenant" Young had no authority from the "so-called Confederate States" to do the acts we complain of, then he and his companions in guilt are not entitled, on any conceivable ground, to the "Right of Refuge," and they should be delivered up on the demand of our Government under the extradition treaty, and we will deal with them according to the law of the place where the offenses were committed; because, in the language of Blackstone, "such unauthorized volunteers in violence are not ranked among open enemies, but are treated like pirates and robbers."

However, if "Lieutenant" Young had a regular commission, and, indeed, in any case, the question of primary importance for us, as a sovereign nation, is: Will the British Government permit its territory to be made the rendezvous of our public enemy for offensive operations against us, in violation of the law of nations, and its solemn declaration to us? Or will that Government deal with them, as it has a right to do, as malefactors amenable to its laws? This matter must not be allowed to sink into a mere pursuit of criminals under an extradition treaty. It is a solemn demand made by one sovereign and powerful nation to another. It is addressed to the honor, good faith and duty of the British Government. If these invaders have commissions as belligerents to make war on us, it for the English Government to keep all persons, whether natural subjects or aliens, within her dominions, in subordination to its declared and professed amity with us. British soil must not be permitted to be used either as a transit or base for any more hostile invasions upon us. We have, in truth, nothing to do with these individuals, or with the how or the why they are in the British Provinces. We have merely to look at the fact that our territory has been violated, and is yet threatened with further violence from persons within and subject to the jurisdiction of the British Government. An armed and hostile invasion of our territory by persons emanating from a neighboring and friendly country is a new episode in our national history. But it is one entirely in the power of our neighbor to prevent the recurrence of, by a prompt and honest enforcement of its own existing law, and its declared public policy toward other nations.

The Fire at Newbern.

Correspondence of The Hartford Press.
Newbern, N. C., Thursday, Nov. 12, 1864.
The good Book tells of must be infected with a demon, or for that matter there must be a demon of them or more. After the yellow fever has exhausted itself we have to chronicle a severe loss by fire. On the night of the 10th inst. at about 10 o'clock, the city of "Fire" was raised, and being of the red-shirted fraternity, your correspondent started for "de masherin." The fire was in the thickest part of the town, and although it was not windy, and the fire did not spread rapidly, it was a great loss, and the fire destroyed a considerable amount of property before it was finally checked.

The death of most of the firemen of yellow fever has left the department a mere skeleton, and having had no rain for some time, the fire was not extinguished, and all hopes centered on the engines until buckets were of no use.

The authorities were informed by merchants and members of the fire department to blow up a couple of small buildings, but it was not done, and things were getting rather warm. And after it was reported that powder was coming, it kept us in agonizing suspense for about an hour before it got around. The first blow up was a decided success, and the fire was checked, and the firemen were able to get the fire under control. The following stores were burned to the ground: Kendall & Co., bakers, stock about half saved; Phin & Co., building employes, John Lewis, stock and furniture, all lost; Leppard & Co., dry goods, stock and furniture, all lost; Joseph Murphy, stock saved; E. Montague, tobacco, stock saved; McKelvey & Co., dry goods, stock mostly saved; Government harness shop, saved; dwelling house of Government employe, total lost; Holbert, McLean & Co., dry goods, stock and furniture, all lost; J. B. Oakes, stock, stock about half lost; Robert D. Dunn, cakes, stock about half lost; unknown, candy shop, stock saved; J. N. Allen, grocer, stock partly saved; John Thompson, grocer, stock partly saved; Moore & Co., stock about half lost; J. B. Berry, druggist, stock and furniture, all lost; building house of stock nearly all saved—about half by the owner, and the balance by soldiers and negroes; J. F. Schlegel, wines, stock partially saved, building house up.

A brilliant illumination, and a fine exhibition of locomotion by parties musically inclined, trotting off banjos and fiddles, and the grocer's specimens of humanity trotting off pork hocks, hickories, and other delicacies, clothing, and rolling floor for several blocks, some battle for bread, some for gawwaw, and all on the "make," instead of helping their unfortunate neighbors, except the few, who worked like "Trojans." Some of the soldiers, with humane feelings, left pillow to be used for the sick, and worked the engines in the despairing hope of water, a noble contrast to the contemptible abortions of men who were with eyes, mouth and pockets wide open, seeking whom they might devour. Yours, &c.

INSURANCE DIVISIONS.—A memorial is in circulation and numerously signed by our Insurance Companies, addressed to Superintendent Barnes, asking him to use the influence of his position to secure the repeal of the act of the last session, restricting the Companies in making their dividends. The act in question which provides that "the whole amount of premiums received on unexpired risks be reserved from division to the stockholders" was passed mainly, no doubt, on the special recommendation of the Superintendent.

OUR NATIONAL TREASURY

[Number Three.]

The Biography of a Greenback.—Continued.

Our last chapter closed with the completion of the different descriptions and forms of the Government paper money made in the National Currency Bureau. As a general summing up of this branch of our subject, and for the purposes of permanent and easy reference, we append the following statement, showing the different descriptions of national securities that have been issued wholly or in part by this Bureau. We have thought it well to include in this table the Government issues executed by the New-York Companies also:

Description.	Amount.	Impressions.
"On demand" notes.....	\$90,000,000	7,753,000
7-30 notes, issue of August 19, 1861.....	50,000,000	76,800
7-30 notes, first series, issue of October 1, 1861.....	50,000,000	95,520
7-30 notes, second series, issue of October 1, 1861.....	1,710,100	7,081
7-30 notes, third series, issue of October 1, 1861.....	8,300,500	7,455
Oregon war coupon bonds.....	\$132,067,100	186,883
Coupon bonds of 1861.....	3,472,500	24,700
Registered bonds of 1861.....	43,812,000	61,797
Legal tender notes.....	24,156,500	32,493
Postage currency.....	417,000,000	1,300,357
7-30 notes, second series, issue of 1861.....	100,000,000	6,000,340
5-20 bonds, second series coupon.....	100,000,000	237,676
5-20 bonds, third series coupon.....	100,000,000	181,297
5-20 bonds, fourth series.....	129,400,250	265,860
5-20 registered bonds.....	87,629,000	40,106
Certificates of indebtedness.....	308,556,341	169,197
Fractional currency.....	6,934,031	1,661,256
10-40 coupon bonds.....	135,000,000	29,700
5 per cent one-year notes.....	264,257,000	246,830
5 per cent one-year notes.....	37,700,920	404,187
6 per cent three-year notes.....	28,000,000	44,610

Total.....\$2,198,391,328,263,650
This exhibit shows the extent of the manufacture of paper money carried on in this Bureau from August, 1863, up to June 1 of the current year.

A statement is now in course of preparation exhibiting the subsequent operations to the present time, which will be found in a future chapter.

To accomplish this work the combined skill and labor of nearly six hundred men and women, and upward of three hundred machines, have been almost continuously required. As furnishing an item of mechanical interest, we subjoin a tabular statement showing the distribution of this large force throughout the several divisions of the Bureau. It is as follows, viz:

Description of labor, &c.	Machines.	Males.	Females.
Engraving and Machine Shop.....	14	4	—
Printing and Model Room.....	4	—	—
Paper making.....	4	—	—
Ink making.....	4	—	—
Engraving Room.....	6	5	—
Transfer Room.....	18	—	—
Printing Room (Dry).....	14	38	—
Printing Room (Wet).....	56	130	150
Press Room for Notes.....	8	—	25
Paper Finishing Room.....	6	—	30
Rolling.....	1	—	32
Building.....	1	—	2
Sealing and Separating.....	29	—	30
Surface Printing.....	8	—	59
Trimming.....	10	—	59
Engines.....	10	—	—

Total.....313 221 307

Total number of hands employed male and female, 528.
The consumption of paper is nearly one million sheets per month, and of ink about four tons per month. The highest rate of wages paid to employees in this Bureau is paid to the pictorial engravers—as much as three thousand dollars per annum being paid in some cases. The superintendents of the several divisions receive from \$700 to \$2,000, and the females from \$1.50 to \$2 per day, according to their work and general capacity. The girls employed in the plate-printing room, of whom there are about one hundred and fifty, are paid one dollar per day.

The aggregate monthly disbursements for labor of all kinds performed in this Bureau amount, on an average, to thirty-three thousand dollars, or about seventy dollars for each person employed.

Having now traced the manufacture of our Greenback and Bond, from their starting point to their final completion in the Note Bureau, we will now follow them to the other offices of the Treasury Department, through which they must pass before they enter into circulation among the people. The Notes, Fractional Currency, and Certificates of Indebtedness, as before remarked, are sent to the Treasurer, and Bonds, both registered and coupon, to the Register. We will continue in the order here given, and speak first of

THE TREASURER'S OFFICE.

Under the General Appropriation Act of the XXXVIIIth Congress, the office of the United States Treasurer is reorganized so as to embrace five separate and distinct Divisions. Each of these Divisions is under the supervision or charge of a Superintendent or Chief of Division, who is appointed by the Secretary, on the nomination of the Treasurer, and who is directly accountable to that officer. These Divisions are severally known as the Cash Division, Division of Issue, Redemption Division, Loan Division, Division of Accounts, and Division of National Banks. Independent of these several Divisions is the Cashier's office, which is in charge of a Cashier and Assistant Cashier, who occupy the chief offices of trust under the Treasurer and Assistant-Treasurer. The three first named of these Divisions, as their names imply, are immediately connected with the distribution and redemption of the public moneys, and we shall therefore speak of them first:

DIVISION OF ISSUES.

This Division is located on the first floor, near the center of the north-west wing of the building. As fast as the notes and fractional currency are finished in the Note Printing Bureau, the "final count" is taken of them. They are then put up in bundles, packed securely in boxes, and sent to the Division of Issues. A receipt is given for each lot as it arrives. These bundles are then recounted, and if the count is found correct, they are turned over to the Cashier.

If, however, any errors are found in the count rendered by the Chief of the Printing Bureau, the package, whether of notes or currency, is rectified by the Note Bureau.

In addition to the counting of the different issues of the Department, the trimming of the fractional currency is also done in this room. About twenty women are employed on this work, and from six to twelve more in counting and packing the notes. One man is also employed to tie up and seal the packages. A full package contains 4,000 notes, independent of the kind or denomination of notes. Thus, a package of Ones contains \$4,000; of Twos, \$8,000; of Fives, \$20,000; of Tens, \$40,000, and so on up to a package of one thousand dollar notes, which is worth \$1,000,000. The daily receipts in this Division are vouchered for to the Printing Bureau in the aggregate, at the close of each day's work, and the whole is then turned over to the Cashier, who deposits it in his vault, and becomes responsible for its safe custody. Not unfrequently as much as eight millions of dollars pass through this Division in a single day. Mr. H. G. Root has charge of this Division.

CASHIER'S OFFICE.

Approaching the office of the Treasurer from the main eastern entrance to the Department, the visi-

tor passes a low door on his right, over which, on a small sign-board, is inscribed the word "Cashier." There is but little need to consult the sign. The well worn threshold, the throng of anxious applicants within, each vying with the other in his efforts to reach the paying teller's desk; the high counter, and the gloomy, sepulchral-looking vault beyond, with the other equally significant appointments of the apartment sufficiently betoken its real character. Hither come field officers and naval officers, paymasters, soldiers, sailors and sutlers, bankers, brokers, bakers and butchers, horse-dealers and cattle-drovers, officers of the Government both military and civil; clerks in the departments, and tradesmen—everybody, in fact, with a claim on the United States, and in want of cash. This is the *Banque du Peuple*—"People's Bank"—and everybody has an equal right to consideration—the weather-worn and wounded soldier from the battle-field or the hospital, who seeks his last month's pay, or the purse-proud claimant of half a million.

The apartment we are now in is a very small, uncomfortable one, and quite inadequate to the enormous business to be done in it. From a statement kindly furnished us by Gen. F. E. Spinner, the very efficient and gentlemanly United States Treasurer, we find that in April, 1861, when he entered upon his duties as Treasurer, the total receipts and disbursements of the office amounted to but three millions of dollars. In the corresponding month of the following year it had increased to three hundred and thirty-one millions. In 1863 they footed up four hundred and forty millions, and for the month of April of the current year to four hundred and eighty millions. During the same period the clerical force has been increased from nineteen to over two hundred. But we have no time for history; we can only deal with facts as we find them now.

As will readily be imagined, the daily disbursements over the counter of the Cash Division are very heavy—from three to five millions are frequently paid out on the first of the month, which is known throughout the Department as Pay Day. Daily balances are taken.

As the notes and fractional currency are received from the Issue Division they are counted, and if found correct, placed in the vault to await the requisition of the several departments and sub-agencies. But a very small amount of gold is kept here, it being found more desirable for the purposes of the Department to keep it at the Sub-Treasury in New-York.

Attached to the Cashier's office, but in a separate apartment, is the Conversion Branch, which, though it does not form a distinct division of the Treasurer's office, nevertheless plays an important part in its operations with the people. Some idea may be formed of the magnitude of the work performed in this single department when it is known that nearly seventy millions of 7-30 bonds (3 years notes authorized by act of July 17, 1861), have been redeemed, the indentments examined, interest computed and the transfer of principals from one loan to another made within the last four months. Upwards of seven hundred conversions have frequently been made in a single day.

The clerical force employed in the Cashier's office amounts, at the present time, to twelve, viz: one Cashier, S. E. Middleton; one Assistant Cashier, L. R. Tuttle; two Tellers, two Assistant Tellers, two Clerks of the 4th class, two of the 3d, one of the 2d class and one of the 1st. Owing to the severe pressure of work, relays of men are frequently required for night-work.

The Cashier is now preparing to move into the handsome, commodious apartment just fitted up for him in the north end of the new wing, similar to that appropriated to the uses of the Comptroller of the Currency on the floor above.

The present total movement of the cashier's office averages from fifteen millions to eighteen millions of dollars daily. We append the reports of the Assistant Cashier for the last three months:

FOR THE MONTH ENDING JULY 31.
Receipts, reimbursements and transfers.....\$175,124,225.73
Disbursements, redemptions, &c.....156,945,887.30

Total movement, 25 days.....\$20,000,113.00

FOR THE MONTH ENDING AUGUST 31.
Receipts, reimbursements and transfers.....\$241,293,818.02
Disbursements, redemptions, &c.....244,767,823.25

Total movement, 26 days.....\$182,361,441.27

FOR THE MONTH ENDING SEPTEMBER 30.
Receipts, reimbursements and transfers.....\$254,059,607.92
Disbursements, redemptions, &c.....321,308,065.40

Total movement, 26 days.....\$626,407,733.32

We now pass on to the crowning act of the long drama—the last scene, so to speak, in the mechanical spectacle which the various bureaus, divisions and sub-divisions of this immense Department which our greenback, note or bond has passed through in its various stages of progress, present to the notice of the reader. As if to keep up this somewhat theatrical presentation of the picture, a Company of the "Department Guard" comes marching up the long hall, the band strikes up, the curtain rises, and we find ourselves by one of those acrobatic, pantomimic short-cuts best known to stage performers, in the

REDEMPTION DIVISION.

This Division, which is presided over by Mr. Frank Jones, presents another very interesting page in the biography of our national currency. Our greenback has now performed its mission—of good or evil, as the channels through which it has circulated may have determined—and it now comes hither to be redeemed, i. e. exchanged for new money, and finally to be destroyed. This is its final repository. A note once deposited here for redemption is never again put in circulation.

The system pursued in redeeming and destroying the Government paper money is simple enough. The money as it is brought or sent to the Department is first taken to the Cash Division, where it is received for by the cashier to the person bringing or sending it—the Cash Division always being the principal in the transactions between the Treasury and the public. The money received by the cashier is then charged to this Division on the cashier's books and sent hither to be examined and counted. If the count is found to be as reported by the Cash Division, the cashier will redeem the money thus brought or sent with a like amount in new notes. Likewise, if there is a "surplus" or "deficit" in the amount as ascertained by the count in this Division, he will add to or subtract from the amount claimed to be brought for redemption—the amount finally paid or transmitted to the party being always made to correspond with the count of the Redemption Division.

From the counting-room the notes are taken in bundles to another apartment, known as the cutting-room, and here the work of demolition commences. The notes are all cut, each note in two places—the demand and legal-tender notes lengthwise through the center, and the fractional and postal currency perpendicularly. One cutting suffices for both. For all purposes of circulation these "cut notes" are valueless, provided the respective portions of each note can be kept separate. These amounts, though here credited to "Receipts and Disbursements," are intended to cover all the operations of the Cashier's office, and therefore represent what is known as the total "movement" of the Cash Division.

only danger to be apprehended lies in their being again brought together. In order to obviate this liability to fraud as far as possible, and also for the purposes of testing the accuracy of the count taken in this division, the notes as they leave the counting-room, are sent under lock to two other bureaus of the Department, entirely removed from the Treasurer's office. The right and upper halves are sent to the Register, the left and lower halves to the Secretary, or, more strictly speaking, to the Redemption Division attached to their respective bureaus. The utmost care is taken to prevent collusion or fraudulent abstraction of the notes.

When the count taken in the Redemption Divisions of the Register's and Secretary's offices has been found to agree with that of the Redemption Division of the Register's Office, the notes are punched, each office punching its respective halves of the notes. This has been found necessary in order to obtain perfect security against the improper use of these fractional notes on their way from the Treasurer's Office to the Burning Room. The case of young Cornwall is still fresh in the public mind and needs no repetition here.

The notes having been cut and punched are turned over to the tender mercies of

THE BURNING COMMITTEE.

This Committee is composed of four gentlemen; one from the Secretary's office; one from the Register's; one from the Treasurer's office, not connected with the Redemption Division; and another not officially connected with the Department; and to them is intrusted the responsible duty attending the removal of these notes to the burning-room and of seeing them destroyed.

We are now rapidly nearing the end of our chapter. Our greenback, after so long and it may be useful career as it has passed through, might well be spared so ignominious a death as that of being burnt, but the laws which regulate the issue and redemption of greenbacks are just as inexorable as those which controlled the action of the Spanish hierarchy during the darkest and deadliest days of the Inquisition. We fancy we hear the Judge say: "Tried by a competent jury of thy countrymen thou hast been found wanting; thy fair form and features, mutilated as 'disfigured by the vile associations with which thou hast been so often surrounded; ragged and dirty and well nigh bereft of character, thou art adjudged guilty and condemned to be burnt. Farewell! Officer, conduct the prisoner forth." This is the *Suaviter in modo*. The fortiter in re runs simply thus.

When the Secretary and Register notify the Redemption Division that their count is correct the Burning Committee is notified that this particular lot will be burnt at such an hour. The burning then takes place, usually the same day upon which the money is counted.

BURNING ROOM.

The room set apart for the burning of the redeemed and condemned issues of the Treasury, is located in the basement of the building, far removed from all other apartments, and is well adapted for the purposes. Here the notes, or other money intended to be destroyed, are conveyed by messengers in boxes, properly secured, and burnt in the presence of the Committee. From \$30,000 to \$200,000 are destroyed at one time. The operation usually occupies about one hour.

The following schedule and certificate are then filled up and signed by the Committee:

Schedule of United States returned by use this day to be destroyed by burning.
No. of Packages, No. of Pieces, Denominations, Amount.
— Of 100 each.....
— Of 50 each.....
— Of 25 each.....
— Of 10 each.....
— Of 5 each.....
— Of 1,000 each.....
— Of 5,000 each.....
— Of 10,000 each.....

Total.....\$20,000,113.00

Treasurer's Office,

Treasurer U. S.

For the Secretary of the Treasury,

For the Register and Assistant Register,

For the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer,

For the Secretary of the Treasury,

For the Register and Assistant Register,

For the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer